

Massachusetts Tern Census Form, Year _____

Colony Name: _____ Colony Number: _____ Town: _____ Ownership: _____	Observer/Agency: _____ Street: _____ Town & State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____
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⇒ ⇒ PLEASE: (1) provide a **map** outlining the location of the colony, and (2) read the instructions on the reverse of this form before filling out. ⇐ ⇐

Species Code	A-Count				B-Count				P	Remarks: (<i>e.g.</i> , evidence of predation, tide or storm washout, human disturbance, etc.) *INDICATE (if known) DATE OF FIRST EGGS LAID AND FIRST EGGS HATCHED.
	Date	No. Pairs	M	Q	Date	No. Pairs	M	Q		
ROST										
COTE										
ARTE										
LETE										
LAGU										
BLSK										
OTHER _____										

Please forward completed form(s) no later than July 31 to Tern Census, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Field Headquarters, Rte. 135, Westborough, MA 01581-3337.
 Telephone: (508)792-7270 x312 / Fax: (508)792-7821 / E-mail address for electronic filing (**please make sure all necessary information is included**): carolyn.mostello@state.ma.us

Instructions for completing the Massachusetts Tern Census Form

For census methodologies consult the *Massachusetts Tern & Plover Handbook: a manual for stewards*.

Colony Name and **Colony Number** are provided according to *Erwin and Korschgen (1979)*. Complete a separate form for each colony visited, even if no birds are found. If a previously unreported colony location is discovered, attach a photocopy of a labeled U.S.G.S. topographical map pinpointing the exact location of the colony.

Species Codes:

ROST = Roseate Tern

= Arctic Tern

LAGU = Laughing Gull

COTE = Common Tern

ARTE = Least Tern

BLSK = Black Skimmer

LETE

Other Codes: **M = Method of Survey**

NC = Nest* Count (1 nest = 1 pair)

EC = Partial Nest Count (extrapolated)

AC = Adult** Count (multiplied by

0.8 = estimated number of pairs)

Q = Quality of Survey

LC = Low Confidence

RC = Reasonable Confidence

HC = High Confidence

P = Productivity Estimate

0 = None

1 = Poor

2 = Fair to Good

3 = Excellent

***Nests** (or scrapes) should contain at least one egg in order to be counted. Also, a nest should be counted if it is apparent that eggs have hatched and/or the chicks are away from the nest. Do not count empty scrapes or nests that are obviously abandoned. Remember, nests represent pairs and all results should be expressed as "numbers of pairs".

**If adults are present at the site but are not found or suspected to be nesting (e.g., if they are simply resting or feeding in the area), they should not be counted as nesting pairs.

REMINDER: REPORT ALL NEGATIVE RESULTS

Negative results are important to document visitation of a site even though no nesting birds may have been found.)

Species Code	A-Count All "A-Counts" are taken within the census window of June 5 - 20	B-Count All "B-Counts" are taken outside the census window; after June 20
ROST	Time as closely as possible to the date of first hatch, approximately 23 days after the first eggs are laid.	Time exactly <u>25 days after</u> first count.
COTE	Time as closely as possible to the date of first hatch, approximately 23 days after the first eggs are laid (<u>usually 6-8 days before ROST</u>).	No "B-Count" is required.
ARTE	Time census to coincide with that of the other species in colony such as COTE or LETE .	Another census should be taken to reflect any additional pairs that appear after June 20.
LETE	Visit colony frequently during the count period and report maximum number of nests/incubating birds counted on any one day.	Conduct a "B-Count" if there is a significant change in numbers from the "A-Count".
LAGU	Time count coincident with COTE count.	No "B-Count" is required.
BLSK	Time count coincident with COTE count.	Another census should be taken to reflect any additional pairs that appear after June 20.